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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER

JACOBS, LASHONDA T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2157

DATE MAILED: 04/05/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/628,190

Applicant(s)

MATSUMOTO ET AL.

Examiner

LaShonda T Jacobs

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 December 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

This is a Final Office Action in response to Applicants' Amendment filed on December 27, 2004. Claims 1, 2 and 7-10 have been amended. Claims 1-10 are presented for further examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Will in view of Maurille.

As per claim 1, Will discloses a profile creation method for use in a conversation system having a plurality of terminal devices that can exchange messages among each other, the plurality of terminal devices being connected to a network and sharing one of a plurality of virtual conversation spaces formed on the network, said method comprising steps of:

- providing predetermined keywords and predetermined categories such that the keywords and categories are correlated to each other (col. 4, lines 17-33);
- identifying a category that corresponds to a keyword if the message sent to the virtual space contains the keyword (col. 3, lines 51-58 and col. 4, lines 17-33); and

However, Will does not explicitly disclose:

- monitoring whether a message sent to a virtual space contains at least one of the keywords.

Maurille discloses an Internet messaging system and method for use in computer networks comprising:

- monitoring whether a message sent to a virtual space contains at least one of the keywords (col. 4, lines 41-51, col. 9, lines 56-67 and col. 10, lines 1-17; Maurille discloses an Internet messaging system that determines if a URL (keyword) is included in the message sent to a user which is stored in the users table. Therefore, Maurille implicitly discloses monitoring whether a message sent to virtual space contains at least one of the keywords).

Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have incorporated Maurille's teaching of an Internet messaging and method for use in computer networks that determines if a URL (keyword) is included in the message sent to a user which is stored in the users table with teachings of Will, for the purpose of providing private bulletin boards for multiple users and is able to allow each of the multiple user to exchange instant messages with one or more users [see Maurille, Col. 3, lines 56-58]. Thus, Will provides the motivation to combine by providing systems and methods that efficiently enable real-time communication among two or more individual separated in space thereby providing more flexibility to individuals to choose other individuals with whom they want to engage in a conversation [see Will, Col. 2, lines 41-52].

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As per claim 2, Will discloses a profile creation system for use in a conversation system having a plurality of terminal devices that can exchange messages among each other, the plurality of terminal devices being connected to a network and sharing one of a plurality of virtual conversation spaces formed on the network, said profile creation system comprising:

- a category table in which predetermined keywords and predetermined categories are stored such that the keywords and categories are correlated to each other (col. 4, lines 17-25);
- a user table that stores users, predetermined keywords sent by the user via messages, and the categories, such that the users, keywords, and categories are correlated to one another (col. 3, lines 65-67 and col. 4, lines 1-16); and

However, Will does not explicitly disclose:

- administration means for monitoring in the conversation system a message sent to a conversation space, determining based on said category table a category that corresponds to the keyword if the message contains a keyword, and writing in said user table a sender of the message, the keyword in the message, and the determined category.

Maurille discloses an Internet messaging system and method for use in computer networks comprising:

- administration means for monitoring in the conversation system a message sent to a conversation space, determining based on said category table a category that corresponds to the keyword if the message contains a keyword, and writing in said user table a sender of the message, the keyword in the message, and the determined category

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(col. 4, lines 41-51, col. 9, lines 56-67 and col. 10, lines 1-17; Maurille discloses an Internet messaging system that determines if a URL (keyword) is included in the message sent to a user which is stored in the users table. Therefore, Maurille implicitly discloses monitoring whether a message sent to virtual space contains at least one of the keywords).

Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have incorporated Maurille's teaching of an Internet messaging and method for use in computer networks that determines if a URL (keyword) is included in the message sent to a user which is stored in the users table with teachings of Will, for the purpose of providing private bulletin boards for multiple users and is able to allow each of the multiple user to exchange instant messages with one or more users [see Maurille, Col. 3, lines 56-58]. Thus, Will provides the motivation to combine by providing systems and methods that efficiently enable real-time communication among two or more individual separated in space thereby providing more flexibility to individuals to choose other individuals with whom they want to engage in a conversation [see Will, Col. 2, lines 41-52].

As per claim 3, Will discloses the profile creation system as set forth in claim 2,

- wherein said user table stores valid period and time at which the keyword was sent, in addition to the users, the keywords, and the categories (col. 5, lines 58-67 and col. 5, lines 1-8);
- said administration means further obtains from the conversation system the time at which the message containing the keyword was sent (col. 4, lines 60-64); and

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- said administration means writing in said user table the time of the message and the valid period of the message, in addition to the keyword sender, the keyword and the category, and deleting an entry whose valid period since the time of message has expired (col. 5, lines 58-67 and col. 5, lines 1-8).

As per claim 4, Will discloses the profile creation system as set forth in claim 2,

- wherein said user table stores the users, the keywords, the categories and message senders whose messages are related to the keywords (col. 3, lines 65-67 and col. 4, lines 1-16); and
- said administration means creates a conversation log in the conversation space, obtains from the conversation log and the conversation system the senders of messages that were sent before and/or after the message containing the keyword was sent, and writes in said user table the senders as related users, such that the related users are correlated with the keywords (col. 5, lines 58-67 and col. 5, lines 1-8).

As per claim 5, Will discloses the profile creation system as set forth in claim 2,

- wherein said user table stores the users, the keywords, the categories and rating data that indicates harmfulness for each user (col. 3, lines 65-67 and col. 4, lines 1-16); and
- said administration means updates the rating data of a user when a predetermined harmful keyword is sent (col. 5, lines 58-67 and col. 5, lines 1-8).

As per claim 6, Will discloses the profile creation system as set forth in claim 2,

- wherein the conversation system processes messages exchanged by the conversation devices based on users' categories stored in said user table (col. 5, lines 53-67 and col. 6, lines 1-6).

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As per claim 7, Will discloses a computer-readable recording media having a profile creation program for use in a conversation system having a plurality of terminal devices that can exchange messages among each other, the plurality of terminal devices being connected to a network and sharing one of a plurality of virtual conversation spaces formed on the network, said profile creation program executing a process comprising:

A: storing predetermined keywords and predetermined categories such that the keywords and categories are correlated to each other (col. 4, lines 17-33);

C: determining based on the category table a category that corresponds to a keyword if the message contains the keyword (col. 3, lines 51-58 and col. 4, lines 17-33); and

D: storing a sender of the message, the keyword in the message, and the determined category, such that the sender, keyword, and category are correlated to one another (col. 4, lines 17-33).

However, Will does not explicitly disclose:

- monitoring in the conversation system a message sent to a virtual conversation space.

Maurille discloses an Internet messaging system and method for use in computer networks comprising:

- monitoring in the conversation system a message sent to a virtual conversation space (col. 4, lines 41-51, col. 9, lines 56-67 and col. 10, lines 1-17; Maurille discloses an Internet messaging system that monitors the messages sent to a user which is stored in the users table. Therefore, Maurille implicitly discloses monitoring in the conversation system a message sent to a virtual conversation space).

Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have incorporated Maurille's teaching of an Internet messaging and method for use in computer networks that determines if a URL (keyword) is included in the message sent to a user which is stored in the users table with teachings of Will, for the purpose of providing private bulletin boards for multiple users and is able to allow each of the multiple user to exchange instant messages with one or more users [see Maurille, Col. 3, lines 56-58]. Thus, Will provides the motivation to combine by providing systems and methods that efficiently enable real-time communication among two or more individual separated in space thereby providing more flexibility to individuals to choose other individuals with whom they want to engage in a conversation [see Will, Col. 2, lines 41-52].

As per claim 8, Will discloses a profile creation method for use in a conversation system having a plurality of terminal devices that can exchange messages among each other, the plurality of terminal devices being connected to a network and sharing one of a plurality of virtual conversation spaces formed on the network, said method utilizing a category table that can be referred to via the network, predetermined keywords and predetermined categories being correlated to each other in the category table, said method comprising:

- identifying based on the category table a category that corresponds to a keyword if the message sent to the virtual space contains the keyword (col. 3, lines 65-67 and col. 4, lines 1-25); and
- storing the identified category such that the category is correlated to a user who sent the message to the virtual space (col. 3, lines 65-67 and col. 4, lines 1-25).

However, Will does not explicitly disclose:

- monitoring whether a message sent to a virtual conversation space contains at least one of the keywords.

Maurille discloses an Internet messaging system and method for use in computer networks comprising:

- monitoring whether a message sent to a virtual conversation space contains at least one of the keywords (col. 4, lines 41-51, col. 9, lines 56-67 and col. 10, lines 1-17; Maurille discloses an Internet messaging system that determines if a URL (keyword) is included in the message sent to a user which is stored in the users table. Therefore, Maurille implicitly discloses monitoring whether a message sent to virtual space contains at least one of the keywords).

Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have incorporated Maurille's teaching of an Internet messaging and method for use in computer networks that determines if a URL (keyword) is included in the message sent to a user which is stored in the users table with teachings of Will, for the purpose of providing private bulletin boards for multiple users and is able to allow each of the multiple user to exchange instant messages with one or more users [see Maurille, Col. 3, lines 56-58]. Thus, Will provides the motivation to combine by providing systems and methods that efficiently enable real-time communication among two or more individual separated in space thereby providing more flexibility to individuals to choose other individuals with whom they want to engage in a conversation [see Will, Col. 2, lines 41-52].

As per claim 9, Will discloses a profile creation system for use in a conversation system having a plurality of terminal devices that can exchange messages among each other, the

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plurality of terminal devices being connected to a network and sharing one of a plurality of virtual conversation spaces formed on the network, said profile creation system utilizing a category table that can be referred to via the network, predetermined keywords and predetermined categories being correlated to each other in the category table, said profile creation system comprising:

- a user table storing users, predetermined keywords spoken by the user, and the categories, such that the users, keywords, and the categories are correlated to one another (col. 3, lines 65-67 and col. 4, lines 1-16); and

However, Will does not explicitly disclose:

- administration means for monitoring in the conversation system a message to be sent to a virtual conversation space, determining based on the category table whether or not the message contains one of the keywords, determining based on the category table category that corresponds to the keyword if the message contains a keyword, and writing in said user table a sender, the keyword of the message, the keyword of the message and the determined category.

Maurille discloses an Internet messaging system and method for use in computer networks comprising:

- administration means for monitoring in the conversation system a message to be sent to a virtual conversation space, determining based on the category table whether or not the message contains one of the keywords, determining based on the category table category that corresponds to the keyword if the message contains a keyword, and writing in said user table a sender, the keyword of the message, the keyword of the

message and the determined category (col. 4, lines 41-51, col. 9, lines 56-67 and col. 10, lines 1-17; Maurille discloses an Internet messaging system that determines if a URL (keyword) is included in the message sent to a user which is stored in the users table. Therefore, Maurille implicitly discloses monitoring whether a message sent to virtual space contains at least one of the keywords).

Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have incorporated Maurille's teaching of an Internet messaging and method for use in computer networks that determines if a URL (keyword) is included in the message sent to a user which is stored in the users table with teachings of Will, for the purpose of providing private bulletin boards for multiple users and is able to allow each of the multiple user to exchange instant messages with one or more users [see Maurille, Col. 3, lines 56-58]. Thus, Will provides the motivation to combine by providing systems and methods that efficiently enable real-time communication among two or more individual separated in space thereby providing more flexibility to individuals to choose other individuals with whom they want to engage in a conversation [see Will, Col. 2, lines 41-52].

As per claim 10, Will discloses a computer-readable recording media having a profile creation program for use in a conversation system having a plurality of terminal devices that can exchange messages among each other, the plurality of terminal devices being connected to a network and sharing one of a plurality of virtual conversation spaces formed on the network, said profile creation program utilizing a category table that can be referenced via the network, predetermined keywords and predetermined categories being correlated to each other in the category table, said profile creation program executing a process comprising:

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B: determining based on the category table whether the message contains one of the keywords (col. 3, lines 51-58 and col. 4, lines 17-33);

C: determining based on the category table a category that corresponds to the keyword if the message contains the keyword (col. 3, lines 51-58 and col. 4, lines 17-33); and

D: storing a sender of the message, the keyword in the message, and the determined category, such that the sender, the keyword, and the category are correlated to one another (col. 4, lines 17-33).

However, Will does not explicitly disclose:

- monitoring in the conversation system a message sent to a virtual conversation space.

Maurille discloses an Internet messaging system and method for use in computer networks comprising:

- monitoring in the conversation system a message sent to a virtual conversation space (col. 4, lines 41-51, col. 9, lines 56-67 and col. 10, lines 1-17; Maurille discloses an Internet messaging system that monitors the messages sent to a user which is stored in the users table. Therefore, Maurille implicitly discloses monitoring in the conversation system a message sent to a virtual conversation space).

Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have incorporated Maurille's teaching of an Internet messaging and method for use in computer networks that determines if a URL (keyword) is included in the message sent to a user which is stored in the users table with teachings of Will, for the purpose of providing private bulletin boards for multiple users and is able to allow each of the multiple user to exchange instant messages with one or more users [see Maurille, Col. 3, lines 56-58]. Thus,

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Will provides the motivation to combine by providing systems and methods that efficiently enable real-time communication among two or more individual separated in space thereby providing more flexibility to individuals to choose other individuals with whom they want to engage in a conversation [see Will, Col. 2, lines 41-52].

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-10 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

4. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LaShonda T Jacobs whose telephone number is 571-272-4004.

The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 A.M.-5:00 P.M..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ario Etienne can be reached on 571-272-4001. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

LaShonda T Jacobs
Examiner
Art Unit 2157

ltj
March 28, 2005



SALEH NAJJAR
PRIMARY EXAMINER